

“Date”

Ms. Maghen Shipley Gagnard  
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office  
Transitional Work Program-Facility Coordinator  
505 Jeffrey Ct.  
New Roads, Louisiana 70760

RE: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-204

Dear Ms. Gagnard:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its October 8, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion relative to whether you or your company could contract with the West Feliciana Sheriff's Office Transitional Work Program to have offenders of the Transitional Work Program be employed in a restaurant owned by you and your husband, Grady Paul Gagnard, Warden at the West Feliciana Parish Detention Center.

### **FACTS PROVIDED**

You provided that you and your husband, Grady Paul Gagnard are both employed with the West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office. Grady Gagnard serves as the Warden at the West Feliciana Parish Detention Center and you are the facility coordinator for the Transitional Work Program. You stated that you and your husband own MG3, LLC which in April 2021 purchased South of the Border Restaurant in St. Francisville and SHAVID, INCORPORATED, a Louisiana corporation that manages South of the Border Restaurant. You stated that prior to your purchase of SHAVID INCORPORATED, the corporation had entered into a one year contract on September 14, 2020, with the Transitional Work Program to employ four offenders to work at the restaurant.

### **LAW**

La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a) prohibits a public servant or member of such a public servant's immediate family, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

La. R.S. 42:1102(8) defines “controlling interest” to mean any ownership in any legal entity or beneficial interest in a trust, held by or on behalf of an individual or a member of his immediate family, either individually or collectively, which exceeds twenty-five percent of that legal entity.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Board concluded and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) would prohibit SHAVID, INCORPORATED from contracting with the Transitional Work Program. Since you are the facility coordinator for the Transitional Work Program, you, your

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husband, and any legal entity in which either of you own a controlling interest are prohibited from entering into any contract with the Transitional Work Program. Therefore, a new contract for beyond September 14, 2021 is prohibited.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

Gregory L. Thibodeaux  
For the Board

**DISCLAIMER**  
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.  
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only.  
and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.